

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2070

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1994

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG

SUBJ: KNESSET DISCUSSES EGYPTIAN VIOLATIONS OF DISENGAGEMENT
AGREEMENT

SUMMARY. IN KNESSET APRIL 3 OPPOSITION LIKUD, JOINED
BY REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL RELIGIOUS AND INDEPENDENT
LIBERAL PARTIES, CALLED ON GOI TO TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TO
COMPEL EGYPTIAN ADHERENCE TO DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT.
DAYAN IN REPLY SAID EGYPTIANS WERE REMOVING EXCESS GUNS
FROM THINOUT ZONE, THAT GOII WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK THROUGH
USG AND UN TO ASSURE EGYPTIAN COMPLIANCE, AND THAT
UNEF WOULD CONDUCT INSPECTION TOUR APRIL 4. END SUMMARY.

1. HERUT LEADER MENAHEM BEGIN AND NRP YOUTH LEADER
YEHUDA BEN-MEIR IN APRIL 3 KNESSET DEBATE STATED THAT
VIOLATIONS OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT PLACED
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IN DOUBT EGYPTIAN INTENTION TO HONOR AGREEMENT AND CONSTITUTED

DANGEROUS PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE UNLESS GOI TOOK FIRM STAND NOW.

2. BEGIN CHARGED THAT CURRENT VIOLATIONS REPRESENTED REPETITION OF EVENTS WHICH TRANSPIRED AFTER AUGUST 1970 CEASEFIRE WHEN EGYPT MOVED MISSILE EMPLACEMENTS FORWARD ON WEST BANK OF CANAL. HE ASSERTED THAT EGYPT WAS MAINTAINING BRIDGEHEADS AND CLEARING AREA ON EAST BANK OF SUEZ CANAL FOR EVENTUALITY OF FUTURE TANK ATTACK AGAINST ISRAEL.

3. BEN-MEIR SAID THAT HE AND MANY OTHERS IN KNESSET HAD VOTED FOR DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT ON BASIS OF GOI'S ASSESSMENT THAT EGYPT WAS INTERESTED IN NORMALIZATION OF LIFE IN SUEZ CANAL AREA AND ENDING STATE OF HOSTILITY WITH ISRAEL. CURRENT VIOLATIONS PUT THESE ASSUMPTIONS IN DOUBT. BEN-MEIR ALSO SAID THAT HE PERCEIVED LINK BETWEEN SYRIAN SHELLING AND EGYPTIAN VIOLATIONS, BOTH OF WHICH REFLECTED ARAB INTENT TO KEEP UP MILITARY PRESSURE TO COMPEL ISRAEL TO ACCEDE TO ARAB TERRITORIAL DEMANDS.

4. DAYAN IN REPLY SAID "I THINK EGYPT INTENDS TO KEEP THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AND FACT THAT 1130 CANNON WERE ALREADY REMOVED FROM THE LIMITATIONS ZONE WOULD INDICATE THIS." AT LAST COUNT EGYPT STILL HAD 72 CANNON INSTEAD OF 36 IN THINOUT ZONE, BUT EGYPTIAN CHIEF OF STAFF GAMASY HAD TOLD SIILASVUO THAT EGYPT WOULD REMOVE THESE EXCESS WEAPONS. DAYAN ADDED THAT EGYPT HAD REDUCED NUMBER OF BRIDGEHEADS FROM TWELVE TO SEVEN.

5. AT ISRAELI REQUEST, UNEF WOULD CONDUCT ON-SITE INSPECTION APRIL 4 INSTEAD OF ON APRIL 19 AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

6. DAYAN SAID THAT GOI WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR COMPLETE EGYPTIAN COMPLIANCE THROUGH STATE DEPARTMENT AND UN CHANNELS, AND EXPRESSED STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT USE OF PUBLIC FORUM AS INSTRUMENT TO FORCE EGYPT TO CARRY OUT ITS COMMITMENTS.

7. COMMENT: DAYAN REMAINS ARTICULATE EXPONENT OF MODERATE, LOW KEY APPROACH TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT AND DOES NOT SEEM TO TAKE VIOLATIONS AS INDEX OF ANY CHANGE IN EGYPTIAN POLICY. WITH DOMESTIC DEBATE SWIRLING AROUND HIM, ACCURACY OF HIS ASSESSMENT IS LIKELY TO REMAIN SUBJECT OF CONSTANT SCRUTINY.
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